OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) has developed the technology for 16,000 port main automatic exchange. Testing of the 16,000 port exchange (initial equipment for 4,000 lines) is in progress.

(b) The expenditure incurred by C-DOT on the electronic switching system project upto 31.3.89 is Rs. 53.5 crores. There has been some delay in design, engineering and field trial of the 16,000 port exchange but the schedule of productionisation laid down as end of 7th Plan is expected to be maintained.

(c) The 16,000 port system (initial equipment for 4,000 lines) for field trial has been installed at Ulsoor, Bangalore. Field trial will commence in May, 1989.

Absorption of Ex-Army Medical Corps Doctors in Central Health Services

727. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the ways and modes open to Ex-Army Medical Officers to enter Central Government Health Scheme;

(b) whether it is a fact that such doctors have to appear in the Indian Medical Service examination as fresh entrants;

(c) if so, whether there is any scheme for absorption of such doctors in Central Health Services, as part of the programme for resettlement of Ex-Army personnel; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) The recruitment to the posts of Medical Officers in the Central Health Service is made by direct recruitment through the Union Public Service Commission. Ex-Army Medical Officers desirous of joining the Central Health Service have to appear in the combined Medical Services Examination. The upper age limit of 30 years is relaxable for certain categories of Defence personnel for periods ranging from 3 to 10 years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

728. [Transferred to be 18th May, 1989].

Joint Indo-French production of New Diphtheria, Polio, Tetanus and Pertusis (DPTP) Vaccine

729. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to replace old DPT vaccine with the new D.P.T.P. vaccines;

(b) if so, what are the advantages and the efficacy of the new DPTP vaccine;

(c) whether Government have signed an agreement with France to establish a new Indo-French Joint ventures with new biotechnology from Institute Mario, France to produce new DPTP vaccine;

(d) if so, what are the details of such products and production capacity;

(e) whether Government propose to acquire biotechnology from Pasteur Institute France for effective production of different kinds of immunisation vaccines;

(f) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(g) in what manner Government propose to utilise the technology acquired from Institute Mario and Pasteur Institute for better immunisation programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir, to determine the feasibility of the use of the DPTP vaccine in the national immunization programme, the Government is organising large scale field trials in the country.

(b) The new DPTP vaccine is a quadruple vaccine facilitating immunization against 4 diseases (viz., Diptheria, pertussis, tetanus and polio) through the same injection. No separate administration is required. Thus without a separate recall, with only two doses administered alongwith DPT, the child would be fully immunised against polio in the 1st year itself. Because of the requirement of only 2 doses of DPTP for immunisation against polio, with 25 to 30 per cent average dropout rate, it would be possible to achieve nearly 85 per cent targetted coverage which would not be possible in OPV which requires minimum 3 doses. Many Studies have shown that over 95 per cent sero conversion is achieved against polio with only two doses of DPTA. The Inactivated polio vaccine in the DPTP requiring storage at plus' 2*C to plus 8*C, needs no special cold chain and thus it can be transported in the existing cold chain for DPT. The present requirement of a minus 20'C cold chain for the O.P.V. would thus get eliminated by use of DPTP.

(c) Yes Sir, The Government of India have signed a protocol with Govt. of France, extending financial assistance from Govt. of France to establish a Joint Venture Company in India to undertake R&D-cum-production of viral vaccines including DPTP Vaccine in collaboration with the Institute Merieux, Lyon, France.

(d) The Joint Venture Company will establish and R&D-cum-production unit to manufacture the following Vaccines :—

Measles Vaccine—20 Million doses per annum.

Vero rabies Vaccine—2 Million doses per annum.

Inactivated Polio—50 Million doses per annum.

Ouadruple DPTP Vaccine—40 Million doses per annum.

(e) and (f) Already the National Institute of Immunology in New Delhi is collaborating with Pasteur Institute, Paris, for research on vaccines and vaccine related technologies in the area of communicable diseases.

(g) These collaborations would result in the production of efficacious and safe vaccines, immunodiagnostics etc., which would be available to India for use in its immunization programme.

संघ लोक सेवा आयोग की सिविल सेवा परीक्षा की आयु सीमा का बढ़ाया जाना

730. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :**
श्रीमती विजया चक्रवर्ती :

क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार से यह मांग की गयी है कि सिविल सेवा परीक्षाओं में बैठने के लिए आयु सीमा को पहले की तरह 28 वर्ष तक बढ़ा दिया जाये ताकि ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के छात्रों की उपेक्षा न हो ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार इस मांग पर विचार करने का इरादा रखती है ; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत और पेंशन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० चिदम्बरम्) (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) और (ग) सरकार ने ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के उम्मीदवारों के हितों सहित सभी पहलुओं पर सावधानी पूर्वक विचार किया है तथा सम्मिलित सिविल सेवा परीक्षा